

MINUTES

**McDowell Sonoran Preserve Commission
1st Floor Community Development Conference Room, One Civic Center
Thursday, July 1, 2004**

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman DeCabooter called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m., noting the presence of a quorum.

ATTENDANCE

Present: Art DeCabooter, Chairman
Christine Kovach, Vice-Chair
Carla
Erik Filsinger
Howard Myers
Arnold Roy
Solange Whitehead

Absent: Denny Carr
Virginia Korte
Laura Fisher
Don Ruff

Staff: Bob Cafarella
Claire Miller
Don Meserve

Visitors: Joe Kullman

APPROVAL OF MINUTES FOR JUNE 3, 2004 MEETING

Motion by Commissioner Myers, seconded by Commissioner Filsinger, to approve the June 3, 2004 minutes as presented. Passed unanimously 7-0.

DISCUSSION: DRAFT COMMERCIAL PERMIT POLICY

Mr. Cafarella advised the Commission that Legal Staff was reviewing the Commercial Permit Policy and that he anticipated bringing it back to the Commission in September. Commissioner Myers requested that Legal Staff provide their findings, and a list of any major changes made to the draft, to the Commission prior to the September meeting to allow time for review.

DISCUSSION: PROMOTION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP/WORK PROGRAM

Commissioner Kovach noted that the Commission has not produced anything since the newsletter in 2002. She added that, as the Preserve will be ten years old in October 2004, the potential for educational opportunities certainly exists. Chair DeCabooter commented that many new Scottsdale residents are unaware of the story of how the Preserve came about and the Preserve's location.

Commissioner Myers stated that he had requested this agenda item due to the election results in May. He observed that it was clear from the vote that many people don't understand the vision for or purpose of the Preserve. He added that access issues are critical and deserve attention, together with tourism issues and trailhead improvements.

Carla noted that the McDowell Sonoran Land Trust has a functioning marketing committee, and that perhaps a coordination of efforts would benefit both groups.

Discussion ensued and it was the consensus of the Commissioners that it was appropriate to reactivate the Promotion Committee. Commissioners Carla, Whitehead and Myers volunteered to serve on the committee. Chair DeCabooter asked Commissioner Kovach to chair the committee. Suggestions were made for non- Commissioners who might serve on the committee.

It was decided that the Promotion Committee would hold its first meeting on August 25th at 5:00 pm in the Community Development Conference Room.

UPDATE: STATUS OF STATE LAND REFORM

Carla reported that the reform has been delayed. She explained that, although the State Legislature did not react well to having something presented to them as a "fait accompli", and could not reach consensus on calling a special session in July, they were in accord to keep working on the package. She noted that a majority of the committee did see a need for state land reform. Carla reported that funding of the State Land Department, creation and makeup of the Board of Trustees, and control of the funding were areas of contention.

Chair DeCabooter inquired as to Governor Napolitano's perspective. Carla replied that the Governor was supportive of the package, but was reluctant to call a special session until she was sure of a consensus. Chair DeCabooter stated the reform topic would be placed on the September 2nd agenda.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT.

Mr. Cafarella announced that the Hidden Hills construction contract was on the July 7, 2004 agenda for City Council. He stated that he didn't anticipate any issues, but noted that it would be prudent for several of the Commissioners to attend that Council meeting. Mr. Cafarella went on to note that official possession of the Gateway land was imminent, awaiting the Governor's signature on the patent. He noted that the condemnation process had gone well and that all remaining private parcels within the planned boundary were in some stage of that process.

Mr. Cafarella reported that, as a result of the latest federal standards for the permitted arsenic levels in the water supply, the City of Scottsdale was in the process of constructing a waterline to tie various well sites north of the CAP Canal together through a new waterline required for arsenic treatment. He presented a map showing the proposed route for a waterline from approximately the main water campus to Deer Valley and Miller Roads to Jomax and Pima Roads. The Commission accepted the report and no objections to the proposed route were stated.

PRESERVE MANAGER'S REPORT

Ms. Miller noted that the stewards were continuing to be active through the summer months. She expressed enthusiasm about the Gateway Project, and noted that the finishing touches were being

completed on the Sunrise Trail. Ms. Miller explained that, with the addition of Scott Hamilton, there was a good opportunity to get the stewards involved in future trail projects outside of the Preserve. She also noted that the Planning Committee was still compiling information relative to enforcement issues, and anticipated bringing its recommendations to the Commission at the August meeting.

Commissioner Myers asked if Mr. Hamilton could brief the Commission on the trail plan and how it relates to the trail access area. Mr. Cafarella replied that Mr. Hamilton was in the process of preparing that information and would present it to the Commission in September or October.

Ms. Miller added that she and Mr. Hamilton would also be setting out the proposed alignment for the Windgate Trail corridor from the future Gateway.

FUTURE EXECUTIVE SESSION

COMMISSIONER WHITEHEAD MOVED AND COMMISSIONER KOVACH SECONDED A MOTION TO HOLD AN EXECUTIVE SESSION FOR SEPTEMBER 2, 2004, FOR THE PURPOSE OF DISCUSSION WITH REPRESENTATIVES OF THE PUBLIC BODY AND CONSULTATION WITH CITY ATTORNEY FOR LEGAL ADVICE TO CONSIDER ITS POSITION AND INSTRUCT ITS REPRESENTATIVES REGARDING NEGOTIATING FOR PURCHASE OR LEASE OF REAL PROPERTY FOR INCLUSION IN THE MCDOWELL SONORAN PRESERVE. THE MOTION PASSED UNANIMOUSLY BY A VOTE OF SEVEN (7) TO ZERO (0).

AGENDA ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Carla asked for a presentation by APS. She explained that APS was proposing new transmission lines and substations in and around the Preserve to serve the electrical needs of future population growth, with possible Preserve ramifications depending upon the routes selected.

ADJOURNMENT

Being duly moved and seconded, the regular meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m. The Commission will not be meeting on August 6th.

Respectfully submitted,

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